27 February 2014

Time: 1: pm -3: Pm

Venue: SofOmar Meeting room, ILRI campus, Addis Ababa

Attendes

Beth Cullen (ILRI), Kindu Mekonnen (ILRI\Africa RISING) , Eliud Birachi (CIAT), Jane Wamatu (ICARDA), Wellington Jogo (CIP), Simret Yasabu (ILRI\Africa RISING),Kiros Hadgu (ICRAF), Britta Kowalski (CIP), Melkamu Bezabih (ILRI), Steffen Schulz (CIP), Valentine Gandhi (IWMI), Aster Gebrekirstos (ICRAF), Girma Tesfahun (ICARDA), Barbara Ann Rischkowsky (ICARDA), Aberra Adie (ILRI), Zelalem Lema(ILRI),Tilahun Amede (ICRISAT), Seid Kemal (ICARDA)

**Meeting Agenda items**

1. Institutional progress update
2. Brief update on the submitted proposals Proposal
3. Plan for the next month
4. AoB

**Agenda 1.** Institutional Progress Update

**ILRI**

1. From ILRI side it was mentioned that innovation platforms has been established in two Africa RISING woredas and Kebeles in Amhara and Tigray. Around 30-40 people attended in each of the woreda and Kebele for the establishment. The woreda IPs are given the name strategic innovation platforms and that of the Kebeles are called operational innovation platforms. There were presentations made on Africa RISING progress, feedback on the Participatory Community Analysis (PCA), the purpose, role, membership and technical committees of Innovation platforms . Participants included Universities, private sectors and research centers. A guideline on IP establishment and maintenance is being prepared and will be shared once it is finalized. The next plan is to establish the woreda and Keble IPs in Africa RISING woredas and Kebeles in Oromia and SNNPR.

**Additional comments from the team:**

* There are research question to be developed on IP and there is a discussion to have a research protocol around this and would be good to get other CG center to get involved in this
* These platforms will be complex to manage various innovation clusters or technological interest groups and at some point we may need to have a practical discussion on how we can manage them.
* There is a suggestion to have a knowledge center – a kind of documentation place at the woreda agriculture offices and kebeles which the details could be worked out later

**Que:** Why not we use Farmers training centers (FTCs)?

**ANS:** FTCs are kebele centered and we can explore how to use them. We want also to have the knowledge center at the woreda level

**Que: S**ince the CG partners are developing the research protocols are they supposed to engage the IP members from the start or after the research is done?

**ANS:** if there is a way that they can involve in the research we do involve them and there are interested CG partners to engage them. We will engage the Kebele IP and they need to endorse what we will be doing and the research protocols and activities needs to be presented to them.

**Que:** Have you tried to understand the indigenous way of organizing them? Who is leading at woreda and who is facilitating? Will everyone be happy if the agriculture office leads?

**Ans :** We want these IPs to extend beyond AR life span and that has been discussed in the IP establishment workshops and they agreed the office of Agriculture office leads .However, this doesn’t mean that it is only the office of Agriculture leading but in collaboration .

**Que:** Are the IPs ILRI lead or do the other centers involved?

**Ans:** So far it is led by ILRI but all the other will also be involved

1. Irrigated fodder: this development has been presented to Lemo sites farmers. They plan to produce irrigated vegetable with water from their shallow wells for house hold consumption and market. Africa RISING provided them with treadle and hip pumps and options if they want to include irrigated fodder production which can be fed to fattening sheep so as to add to house hold income Some 14 volunteered farmers from Lemo and Hangacha (ILSSI project woreda) planted Oats/vetch, Napier and Desho grasses at their backyards to feed to sheep to fatten and sell.

**Que:** Is there a research protocol

**Ans:** This work is not only of Africa RISING but it is a joint project with the innovation lab for small scale irrigation (ILSSI).The research protocol is underway and will be circulated soon

**Que:** What is the research question on the sheep fattening?

**Ans:** The research questions are indicated in the research protocol

**CIAT**

1) Last month we indicated that we will be completing the rapid market appraisals. The teams are right now collecting data and this will be finished hopefully in the next 10 days. After that we intend to quickly complete the reports and share with the rest of the AR team. We need this information to use in the intervention phase.

2) In addition, we have information on the market players some of who will be part of the platforms that have been established. This will be our contribution to link the IPs and IP clusters to the targeted markets. In each district/woreda, we will provide the lists of potential market players that the IPs can negotiate with for membership on the platforms, to create linkages to markets.

**Que**: How were the commodities selected?

**AnS:** We waited the PCA and other works before we started and we looked at those commodities which were priorities and tried to find some commodities which was picked up a common

**Que**: In ICRAF diagnostic studies fruits came up but it is not included in the value chain studies

**Ans**: These are not an exhaustive list but we tried to look at some cross cutting commodities. There are still rooms to consider some site specific and crosscutting commodities.

**ICARDA**

Not much progress update as they are waiting for proposal and fund approval

**CIP**

* Are waiting for our proposal and funds to be approved but started some work during this belg season and are looking at the availability of quality seed
* CIP wants to pilot this to 6 farmers and expand to more kebeles depending on experiences of this year and funding.
* We are preparing with CIMMYT and ICARDA a joint proposal on rotation cropping system on legumes

**ICRAF**

* One proposal is developed on fruit trees and we are also collaborating with CG centers on other issues.

**IWMI**

* **Has submitted 3 proposals**

**Agenda 2.** Brief update on the submitted proposals Proposal

Kindu gave a brig update on the submitted proposals. Accordingly:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Institution | Number of proposals | Area of intervention |
| ILRI | 1 irrigated and 5 others | Crop residue, irrigated fodder, fodder trees, studies on tradeoffs of the local and improved faba bean growing practices, gender (situation analysis and capacity building) related, research on IP |
| CIAT | 3 (1 diagnostic and 2 action oriented) | Studies on soil erosion, addressing yield gap challenge through impr mang’t practices, establishing market infrastructure and linkages in the AR project |
| ICARDA | 3 (2 main season and 1 short season) | Economic impact of market facilities in selected livestock markets, Participatory variety selection and scaling up/out of cereal and food legumes varieties, studies on crop residues (Assessment of CR utilization, Nutritional quality evaluation of conserved CR, Testing supplementation options for CR, Enhancing CR feed quality and Enhancing storage techniques) |
| CIP | 5 (short season) | community-based seed potato production system, Promotion of Diffused Light Storage, Promotion of quality seed for potatoes, Develop community Action Plans for Meher 2014, Contribute to the integration of AR activities into coherent project program |
| ICRAF | 1 | Fruit trees |
| IWMI | 3 |  |
| ICRISAT | 2 |  |
| CIP-ICARDA-CIMMIT | 1 system level joint protocol |  |

**Agenda 3 :** Plan for the next month

* The IP establishments will continue in Lemo and Sinana

**AOB:**

* there was a comment from the CG partners to get the feedback from the already submitted protocols
* There is a need to have a control (existing systems) to see changes because of IP interventions
* We need to have common understanding on the use of names for different research groups such as Farmers Field Schools, Farmers Research Groups, Farmers Interest Groups etc

**Next monthly meeting: 28 March 2014, place SofOmar meeting room**